

Dear Rep Adrian Smith and Rep John Larson,

I am writing to ask that the Financial Services Tax Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform to repeal or revise the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) that is destroying the community of Americans working overseas.

As one of nearly 7 million American citizens living, working and voting from abroad, and contributing to the economic growth of the U.S. economy, FATCA legislation along with FBAR (Foreign Bank Account Report) is having serious negative consequences for those of us working abroad and for the US economy.

American citizens have become pariahs in the international financial community because of FATCA and are being denied financial tools essential for survival.

Business opportunities for Americans overseas are blocked due to the 10% American ownership reporting threshold for start-ups and business ventures

Foreigners are backing away from investments in the US due to the increased oversight, risks and dangers of financial reporting in the United States

FATCA creates a new barrier to U.S. exports as companies, start ups are loath to hire Americans or deal with Americans due to increased exposure to the IRS/Treasury and reporting requirements

FATCA creates systemic risks for the entire international financial community

FATCA puts Americans working overseas at personal and financial risk due to unsecured data transfer of highly sensitive financial and personal information.

I have been personally affected by this situation, in particular regarding the interference with Swiss banks. When I was finally able to pay off a modest mortgage that my late husband (a Dutch national) and I had contracted with UBS for a small house purchased in 1988 I had hoped to move my financial dealings to Migros Bank, one of several smaller but honest and respectable banks: they would have nothing to do with me because American clients are now a complicated and expensive business for them owing to the many requirements imposed by the American authorities. I still have some money with Raiffeisen Bank but I am now *persona non grata* for the same reasons; I have not yet been asked to leave but was told that if I applied now they would not grant me a mortgage.

Please repeal or revise FATCA and please seriously consider the RBT proposal submitted by American Citizens Abroad (ACA). A move towards a residence-based system, like the rest of the world, would resolve the issues of FATCA and FBAR while creating a simpler and fairer system for Americans living abroad and increasing more tax revenue than the current system, which wastes compliance resources for very little return.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Biegel-Hartzell